2d part of Annual Report of the Com: on Bible Tract & Education

April. 1838

The Bible was given to man to shew him the way of acceptance at the hands of a just God. We dare not say that a single word of this volume is unnecessary — That a single truth is unimportant. We value it & cherish it as above all price. This is well. It is as it should be. There is truly nothing comparable with the Bible. We believe that this blessed book must be given to all men before they may know the whole will of God. concerning subjects involving the most important interests & that we are the appointed ones to communicate this blessing. It may be asked & that pertinently why then is the Bible withheld from so many? How can Xians enjoy the exclusive privilege of reading it? Is there no money in the church? Are there no facilities for translating? Are there no distributors to be found? We cannot dwell on this subject without [illegible] a trespassing upon some more appropriate to the time allotted
field. Suffice it to say that the Bible is not, nor yrs ago was there a steady prospect of its being placed, in the hands of all — Hence arose the Tract society. Though the Bible — Thus the Bible was important yet Xian philanthropy could not wait until it might be given as a whole — It therefore ventured to call out a few truths & send them abroad as bright

harbingers of what might be expected soon to follow. The tract does not aim to hide the Bible, but heralds its approach & prepares the way. Unlike the herald of our Savior it need not say "I must decrease" The former becomes the companion & both point to the same Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.

We shall not attempt to take a survey of the Tract operation of the whole world but shall content ourselves with a small part, giving but a glance at the remainder.

India. As we approach this vast country with her 136.000.000 of inhabitants. we are first struck with the variety of language written as well as spoken forming. In respect to the first, a perfect contrast with China where we find 300.000.000 all reading the same language. This presents a serious difficulty. Soon the attention of the Missionary being first directed to this, he soon reduces those dialects to writing which have not been before & makes himself master of all. Presses Tracts are next to be prepared & presses established to meet this variety. And we find there 11 Indian and there are now in operation 2 presses & a prospect of 2 more soon. from this place millions of tracts may be scattered which will find their way into all parts of Northern India. Many of the people read & will receive the tracts with gratitude. To this District the A. T. S. have appropriated for this year $. 2.500. Thus giving their

testimony to the importance of immediately granting to this people the truth of the Gospel

At Orissa the Holy Land of the Hindoo being the residence of the great Juggernaut many tracts have been distributed. It is estimated that fr. 2. to 300.000 thousand pilgrims visit this place annually. for the most distant parts of India. Mr. Sutton says that with their present number of missionaries they can distribute to advantage 40 or 50.000 tracts yearly & many more if they had more help. An interesting fact may be here mentioned. The first convert at this station was excited to enquiry by tracts & there is now a native preacher who has a good hope through grace that first saw the truth in the little tract.

A. S. have appropriated $500. to this place

Madras. Here the A.B. have commenced a new mission. The principal object is to distribute tracts. They have the 10.000.000 of the Telooguos on the north. concerning whom we received a communication last summer. & the Tamul on the south. Our Br. contemplate dividing Madras into districts & visiting each in order & from house to house. A great work when we remember their feeble number. The population of Madras is 300.000 at least. They however do not confine themselves to the city but make pilgrimages in the country adjoining. In one of these tours Dr Scudder distributed 30.000 Tracts. He stopped. not because there were no more hands extended & eyes to receive a book. but

his supply was exhausted - $3.000 have been appropriated to this station for the current year $30.000 might be profitably expended.

Madura one of the seven sacred cities of India Here 480.000 pp. were distributed in a single year month they have no press but draw their supply from Madras & Jaffna - The whole amount appropriated to S. India - is $20.000.

Isle of Ceylon.

Where "every prospect pleases
And only man is vile"

We are gratified to learn that that they have now 3 presses which last year printed 8. 947. 800 pp. many of these however are sent to the continent - Had all been distributed on the Island it would have given every one a tract of 8 pp. Many of the scholars collected in the 153 schools have not yet even a copy of the Gospel. We must not here omit the Jaffna Religious Tract Soc. It is cheering to take up a report of 40 pp. printed in Ceylon containing an a/c of tract operations through their different Societies. The annual meeting was held June 11th/36. Addresses by the different Missionaries. The report abounds with gratitude the very important aid rendered by the London Rel. Trat. & Vth. A. S. S. The former of which it looks to as to a parent. During the year 15 new tracts had been added. 24. Tam Editions of 10.000. had been issued of

21. different Tracts. making 210.000. which added to the number before reported makes 903.642. since the formation of the society. Their tracts may be read by all the Tamul people on the continent. if care be taken to have them written in pure Tamul rejecting all provincialisms. This fact allays the fears of those who thought that the Tamul as on the continent & on the Island was so different as to require entirely different works. This of course will greatly facilitate the spread of the truth. They also notice the efforts of the Tinnevelly Tract Soc. which is auxiliary to it. This society employs men who go into the Bazars & read the tracts at the same time preaching the truth of the Gospel. As a result from this species of effort they state that 2. Rom. Catholics & a Heathen family of 6 persons had been receiving ~~baptism~~ instruction preparatory to baptism. And one Romanist had already been baptised.

At Trincomalie the circulation is carried on as vigorously as their means will allow. They pay. A large basket full was soon circulated. What was received is all soon disappeared. & when those you sent a few days since, come to hand you were obliged to put the people on an allowance — An allowance of the Bread of Life !! — else they had not lasted a fortnight. Even the most bigoted — The Mussulmen read

the tracts-

These societies promise much good- They are a bond of union between the missionaries of the different denominations- And this unity gives the natives a favorable impression of the Gospel among the Mahrattas there is a stereotype foundry & press- from which 3.301.000 pgs were issued during 9. months- Mr Allen who is laboring here says "each individual who receives a tract is informed of the subject of it, & by the act of receiving it, promises to examine it. In this way these distributed may be examined. & instances has come to my knowledge of tracts. & instance has come to my knowledge of one of them being destroyed or wantonly abused: while I have found many satisfying instances of their being read & understood."

Burmah. We copy verbatim- "In the heart of the city of Maulmein is a building of brick of the form of a I, 78 ft long each way. 38 ft wide & 2 stories high: containing a Cope power press. four hand presses: 25 cases of fonts: fonts in Burman, Karen, & Pegun. & a type foundry for casting each of these languages: a bindery complete: & 25 natives regularly employed. Four additional presses with a large supply of paper, were sent out last October last: 2 presses are to be located in Savoy for printing for the Karens, one of them to be wholly run upon tracts. A press is also ordered for Ava where already 3.000.000 pgs. have been received for distri-

bution where 8.000 Tracts were recently distributed, at a festival in 2 days." So far we copy - We also learn that 8.268.600 Pgs - were printed here in 1835 - The Missionaries depend much upon Tract. They number 30. & have many native assistants who are all more or less engaged in making tours through the country distributing as well as preaching the word. We need not wonder at the facts of interest which are continually brought to us from this country. One day Mr. Vinton is on boat & on shore - distributed 1000 Tracts & all day was thronged by those who heard the Gospel The result of this connection with this other Operation for the year 1836 was the hopeful conversion of 343 communicating souls. Our Tract effort for N.Y. city gave for 1837 - about the same result. We have here 16 Missionaries aided by 1.000 visitors - surrounded by a Pagan influence Who can say that Burmah is not prepared to receive the Gospel -?

North of Burmah among the Shyans there is a press in operation. Of this people little is known Their wants however are great & the establishment of a press cannot be considered as premature.

I remark as this is leaving this part of Asia - this species of labor does not interfere with the what might be thought to be their more appropriate

work & the missionary preaching & teaching. For

1st The missionaries need relaxation for study & thirsome serious duties. They find it morning & evening in walking out with a bundle of tracts which they leave by the way.

2d It gives them an introduction to the people & serves as a text. A man may call upon any one with the most trifling gift & when the tract is presented the natural query is. What is it about? An exposition of the Gospel of course must follow.

3d It draws many to the missionaries. They come to get a book & thus when the missionary cannot go abroad he can always have a congregation at home. & here he has the advantage of private interviews.

We cannot but rejoice in the promise of good which this effort gives for India. Many have abandoned idolatry for reading "the Bible way". A tract of 70 odd pp. shewing the dark Blind way of idolatry. This tract is acceptable to the people. not a single one has yet been known to have been destroyed. There are now in the Tamil Language alone 200 Xian publications besides 13. in the Mahratta & many of other languages. The materials are prepared. Oh for faith to use them. That God may be glorified in the salvation of the Heathen.

Chinese - one hour but a word

The seat of operations at Singapore - There is here a Printing office 65ft by 17ft Type foundry & fonts of type in Malay. Siamese. Javanese & Burmese. 11 Chinese block cutters & a copyist. Over 10 printers actively employed. a large number of scriptural & other Tracts printed not far from 2.500.000. pp. printed last year. Rev. Mr. Dyer at ~~Malacca~~ Malacca & M. Panthier at Paris are engaged in preparing Chinese metallic moveable type containing 30.000 characters. These will greatly facilitate the printing of Bks. for the Chinese. It may be stated however that only 9000 distinct ~~characters~~ type will be needed as many of the 30.000 may be made by a combination of two or more of the more simple ones. A single set of matrices from which any number of type may be cast will cost £24.000.

A scheme of a Tour made by Mssrs Medhurst & Stevens. It appears that through China canst for entered & missions permanently established yet that the whole coast may be approached & visited. Tracts left. The people preached to provided the stay at any one place be short. The Mandarins have orders to treat strangers with respect but to hurry them off as fast as possible. Mr. Gutzlaff says in view of the prospects of China. "But I am not at all discouraged for many an enquirer has crossed my threshold & many a voice paid. May Jesus, of whom I read & much, bless you. He heard Mrs Z Chinese while reading a tract aloud - "Increase our faith & pray & pierce."

But we must hasten from the East & give a
a/c of Exact Operations never known.
Great Britain may be said to be organized for
supplying her vast population with the word
of life. Besides the London Rel. Tract. Church
Soc. &c there is London. all which have their pu-
merous auxiliaries. We find similar institutions
in Edinburg, Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow &
almost all the principal places throughout
the Island.
France. Spain. Belgium Germany & Prussia. all
have their Tract Soc's: And though hard pressing are
still very feeble. They need the sympathies. the prayers
& the contributions of this more favored portion of
station is their lands. Hi with with pleasure that
we report that A.T.S. for the current year have
appropriated $700 to France. $800 to Spain. $300 to
Belgium. $1.200 to Germany ~~$1700~~ $400 to Prussia.
In addition to wh they receive aid for Britain.
Their plan in these country is chiefly by colpor-
teurs.
Russia open to us her 60.000.000. of Souls. $1000
has been appropriated by our Soc to the publi-
Baxter's call has been translated by the Bishop
of Archangel. & printed at the Office of the
Holy Synod. at Moscow. And sent forth
with a warm recommendatory preface by the
Bishop. The Government also favors the effort.
~~And~~ one of the Govt papers says. "Certainly

didactic little tracts of various sorts, published in editions of 10 to 15.000 present a claim for our gratitude to those friends of the human race who thus labor for the extension of Xian morals." One letter says that 2/3 families in the town of Finland have relinquished the use of ardent Spirits in consequence of reading a tract on that subject. The same letter says. Last year we sent 15.000 tracts into the interior for an experiment. They were all sold & 8.000 more. This year we have sent 20.000. & they doubt not but that as good an use will be given of them. A female in humble life distributes in a short time 2.750. A church member in St Petersburg in 6 months distributed 3.320. More facts might be mentioned shewing that Xians have thought feeble are awaking to the duty of communicating what they have received. Their efforts have not been in vain. Sinners have been led by the Spirit to the fountain opened for sin & uncleanness & have experienced of its purifying influence. "His now nearly 3 yrs since many of us have reformed & then they have effected it." This was said of a considerable village & might be said of more. This world fail to tell of God's works of love & mercy through the tract effort. In Sweden Denmark. Norway - in the North & Greece on the South of Europe - We must leave Europe & look for a moment before we close at home

2nd & Tract Visitation -

Accounts are constantly arriving of the organization of associations for the distribution of Tracts in connection with visitation. They are all modled on the plan of the Tract Effort in N.Y. city. viz. Supporting a missionary where it is practicable whose whole time is devoted to the work and enlisting the services of private Xians as volunteers to do the burden of visiting. A few facts will show the progress of this operation. N.Y. city employs 16 Missionaries & 1.000 visitors. Last year 675.000 Tracts circulated - H. Con 4 96.

Albany - 1. Miss - 125 Vis. 52.000. Tracts. 22. H. Con.
Rochester 1. Miss. 108 Vis. 16. H Con.
Philadelphia 4. Miss. 500 Vis. 4.150.750. Pgs. 100. H. Con.
Broklyn N.Y. 1. Miss. 135 Vis. 4. 500 Tracts - 8 H. Con.

Similar Efforts have been made & corresponding success realized by many of the towns & villages of our union.

2d & Volume Circulation -

Virginia has been divided into districts for the purpose of supplying her inhabitants with bound volumes - Agents are employed in almost all the states of the Union for the same purpose

The Shipping - on our seas - rivers - canals &c are being supplied with Tracts of Rel.

Blks. & it is gratifying to learn that they are mostly received with gratitude & read with profit. The Tract magazine still has many witness proofs. That Baxter's Call still comes to call sinners to repentance. Allein's Alarm still disturbs the careless one & finds him no rest until he finds it at the foot of the Cross. Hartan Page quickens the zeal of the weary Christian. Doddridge's Rise & Progress has not yet ceased to be used by the Spirit of God to commence & carry on to completion the blessed work in the souls of men.

Select Report—

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Committee on Public Instruction

2d Part—